



# IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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LEADING IOWANS IN CARING FOR OUR NATURAL RESOURCES



# Iowa River Programs Best Practices Toolbox Design Event

Presentation to the  
**FILL IN THE BLANK**

**NAME**

**ORGANIZATION**

**DATE**



# Iowa Rivers and Waterways Study Committee

## Final Report Recommendations

- January 2014 – Iowa Rivers and Waterways Study Committee recommends needed river and waterway restoration for water quality, habitat benefits
  - Create a collaborative plan to build on current and emergent efforts; identify and facilitate meaningful and effective river restoration priorities.
  - Build on successes of locally-based improvement partnerships to address restoration needs and opportunities.





# Draft Plan Framework for Iowa River Programs

- Vision
  - To protect, enhance, evaluate and connect river functions for lowans
- Scope
  - Maximize the long term value, function and health of rivers and streams through focused communication and collaboration with a broad range of partners.
  - Coordinate among watershed improvement, recreation, permitting, education and evaluation programs with all partners to achieve the collective vision.
  - Build a tool box that includes partnerships, stream stabilization, dam removal and modification, stream habitat, floodplain connectivity, riparian management, watershed work, data collection and dissemination.



# Draft Plan Framework for Iowa River Programs

- Guiding Principles
  - **Protect** the ecological and hydrological functions of Iowa's rivers sustainably to preserve the resource and protect public health and safety.
  - **Enhance** the functionality and health of Iowa's rivers and streams.
  - **Evaluate** river information to protect human health, biological diversity and economic vitality.
  - **Connect** people to rivers, coordinate programs, share information.





# Transformation Plan

## Enhance

- Develop hydrologic modeling capabilities
  - Skills needed for building structures for improving rivers, for providing expertise to partners
- **Build stream restoration project process**
- Create river and stream programs that emphasize:
  - nutrient recycling through a river system
  - fisheries priorities for water trails master plans
- Build on private lands program for conservation efforts with river trails and watershed projects
- Launch aquatic area management program for recreational access, riparian protection and watershed improvement
- Develop a stream impact mitigation program
- **Create a consultation process for river restoration efforts**



# Iowa Rivers Best Practices Toolbox Design Team



Roz Lehman – Iowa Rivers Revival

Luis Leon – LT Leon Associates

Wayne Petersen – Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

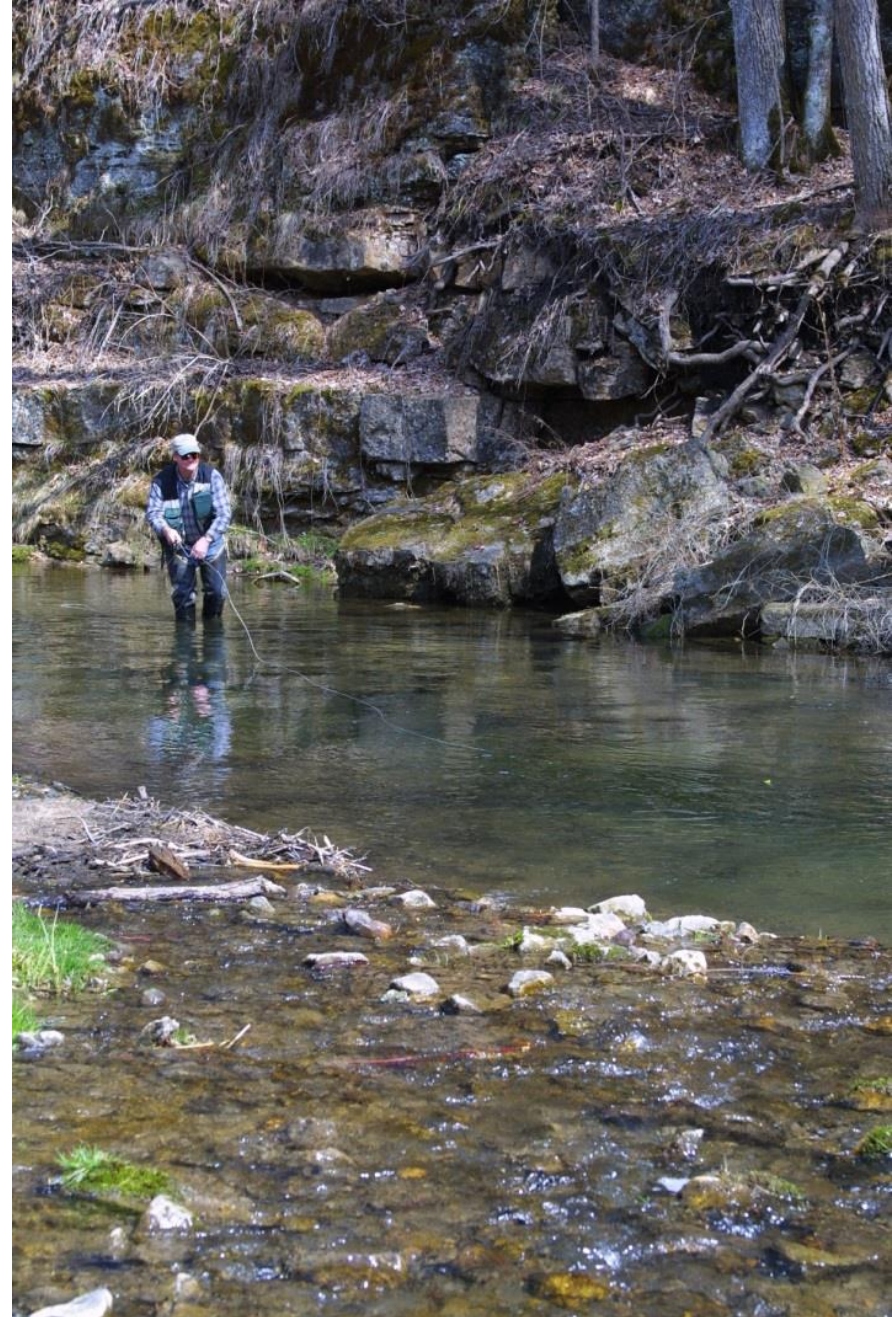
John Thomas – Hungry Canyons Alliance

Glenn Harman, Nate Hoogeveen, Claire Hruby, Brett Johnson, Daniel Kirby, Jason Palmer, Christine Schwake, Karen Smith, and Lee Wagner– Iowa Department of Natural Resources



# Project Charter

**Scope:** This event will build the framework for a best practices toolbox which will include components for stream stabilization, dam removal and modification, stream habitat, riparian management, floodplain connectivity, watershed work, as well as data collection and dissemination with consideration and encouragement towards working in partnership with organizations and individuals in order to consistently protect, enhance, evaluate and connect river functions for Iowans. Resources to determine what they are, how they interact and where opportunities exist amongst them for improved collaboration and new ventures.





# Project Charter

## Objectives:

- Create a best practices toolbox using a holistic and consistent approach for improvements within rivers and streams throughout the riparian corridor and into the watershed.
- Create a toolbox that provides not only examples of tools but details a best practice process for a project from assessment through monitoring no matter size or cost.





# Project Charter

## Goals:

- Components of the best practices document include assessment, evaluation, design, construction, monitoring, funding.
- Develop a high level process map for use of the toolbox for restoration and mitigation –decision tree.
- Develop a communication plan for dissemination of the toolbox including any training that may be needed for others (individuals, partners and organizations) to understand and use.





# Principles & Introduction

Development of an Iowa specific resource to enhance Iowa's river system and create successful projects.

The introduction will be for all audiences to understand the importance of a healthy river system.





# Assessment

Assessment is the key missing step that is often missed. It is how the root problem is identified and reduces risk of failures.





# Tools, Best Practices, & Design Standards

Identification of cost effective best management practices for Iowa's river systems that provide the maximum benefits to Iowa's river ways and landscapes.





# Post Construction

Monitoring and maintenance are important components for long term success. Learning from project success and failure improves river enhancements long-term.





# Training

Identify areas of existing training and resources for various audiences along with areas needed to be developed.





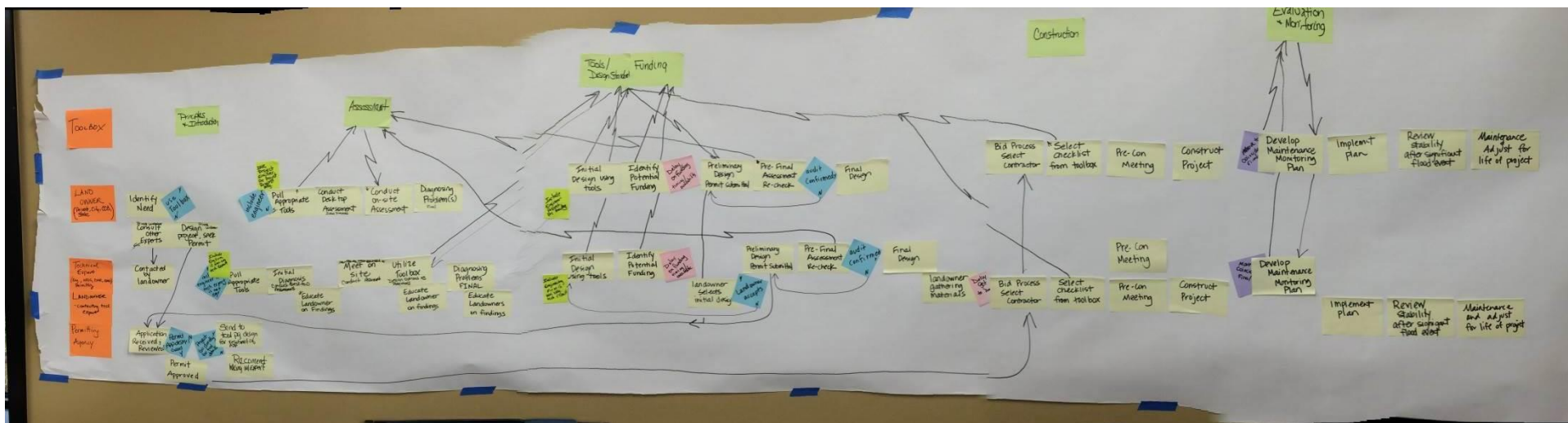
# Funding Options

Identification of existing resources along with where the gaps exist. Explore sustainable support for a state program.





## Process Map for the Future Ideal





# Next Steps

Lots of homework and small groups tackling the various projects.



Iowa Rivers Program Best Practices Toolbox Design Event Transformation Plan																
Task	Execution Method	Owner (program/process owner for this event)	Planned Timeline for execution										Status: 30 Days			
			Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug.				
Develop a list of tools desired (wildlife, fisheries, NRCS, ACOE, IDALS, DOT, DNR engineer)		Glenn														
Developing the specs and design standards for the tools. Similar group of participants - potential RFP		Lee														
Develop outreach resources or pull together existing. With VSM training group		Roz														
Training for technical and designers and Reviewers/Inspectors to get on list as trained rather than certified		Nate														



## Team Member Experience – Christine Schwake

- I was amazed at how many of the team members walked into the event with the same ideas regarding what they want in the toolbox.
- We had some amazing ideas that I hope end up in the toolbox.
- However, we also had some ideas that may get squashed by reality.
- I enjoyed watching Bill Ehm's expression when it was suggested that we need at least 17 more staff for the gold version of the toolbox.
- I am so excited to have this toolbox up and running and be able to share it with the Corps of Engineers, USFWS, & EPA.







## Team Member Experience





# Questions & comments!